competitiveness of the domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure in functional clusters. The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has been set up by the Government to provide a continuing forum for policy dialogue to energise and sustain the growth of manufacturing industries in India.

Production and export of flowers

† 2290. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the production and export of flowers under floriculture;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to increase the production of flowers in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir as well as to export them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is encourgaing floriculture under the National Horticulture Mission. The Mission was launched in May, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 2300 crores during the Tenth Plan for development of horticultural crops including floriculture. Steps taken to increase production and export of floriculture products also include setting up of 6 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) for flowers in 5 States, financial assistance to exporters under Plan schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for market development, infrastructure development, quality development, research, transport assistance, and setting up of perishable cargo gentres at various international airports.

(c) The outlay under a technology mission for the development of horticulture including floriculture in the 3 States during the Tenth Plan is given below:

(Rupees in Crores)

State	Amount
Himachal Pradesh	80.00
Uttaranchal	80.00
Jammu and Kashmir	100.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

An AEZ has been set up in the State of Uttaranchal to boost export of floriculture products. Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs has been extended by APEDA to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for preparation of a project report for development of floriculture in the State.

Withdrawal of MNF status given to Pakistan

2291. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has made it clear that Most Favoured Nation status cannot be granted to India unless Kashmir dispute is resolved;

(b) if so, whether India would also withdraw that status given to Pakistan; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Pakistan has so far not granted MFN status to India despite its obligations, including under the WTO, and has cited extraneous political, economic and other reasons for this. The matter of grant of MFN status by Pakistan to India has been raised repeatedly with Pakistan. Government has drawn attention of Pakistan to its obligation to grant MFN status to India, and that this step would serve as an indicator of Pakistan's intention to improve bilateral and regional economic cooperation, and to have normal trade and economic relations with India. There is no proposal as of now to withdraw MFN status given to Pakistan.

Subsidy to small tea growers

2292. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to the tea leaf processing units functioning in the country alongwith the facilities being provided to these units by Government;

(b) whether the small tea growers have been seriously affected due to the steep fall in tea prices in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;